



ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

Officers:
E. Paul Torres, Chairman
Governor J. Michael Chavarria, Vice Chair
Governor Val Panteah, Sr., Secretary

RESOLUTION

ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

RESOLUTION NO. APCG 2019-26

SUPPORT FOR THE PROTECTION OF BEARS EARS AND ALL TRADITIONAL CULTRAL PROPERTIES AND CULTURAL RESOURCES AND SACRED SITES AFFILIATED WITH BEARS EARS

WHEREAS, the All Pueblo Council of Governors (“APCG”) is comprised of the Pueblos of Acoma, Cochiti, Isleta, Jemez, Laguna, Nambe, Ohkay Owingeh, Picuris, Pojoaque, San Felipe, San Ildefonso, Sandia, Santa Ana, Santa Clara, Santo Domingo, Taos, Tesuque, Zia and Zuni, and one pueblo in Texas, Ysleta Del Sur, each having the sovereign authority to govern their own affairs; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the APCG is to advocate, foster, protect, and encourage the social, cultural and traditional well-being of the Pueblo Nations; and

WHEREAS, through their inherent and sovereign rights, the APCG will promote the language, health, economic and natural resources, and educational advancement of all Pueblo people; and

WHEREAS, each APCG member is a federally recognized tribal nation within the United States with its own cultural territory and the sovereign right to protect its traditional cultural properties and sacred sites, whether or not they are located within each Pueblo's current exterior reservation boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the protection of each Pueblo's traditional cultural properties and sacred sites is necessary to each Pueblo's cultural preservation now and into the future; and

WHEREAS, the Bears Ears Cultural Region encompasses some of the ancestral lands of the Pueblo people and contains tens of thousands of sites of vital ongoing importance to the Pueblo peoples' identity and history, including villages, great houses, kivas, shrines, burials, petroglyphs, pictographs, ancestral dwellings, and ancient roads; and

WHEREAS, the Pueblo migration path from Pueblo peoples' place of emergence to their current homelands traverses the region of San Juan County between Bears Ears National Monument and Canyons of the Ancients and Hovenweep National Monuments; and

Acoma

Cochiti

Isleta

Jemez

Laguna

Nambe

Ohkay Owingeh

Picuris

Pojoaque

Sandia

San Felipe

San Ildefonso

Santa Ana

Santa Clara

Santo Domingo

Taos

Tesuque

Ysleta del Sur

Zia

Zuni



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WHEREAS, the area described above was significantly populated by Ancestral Pueblo people and others for thousands of years, leaving behind dozens of community center sites, Chaco-influenced great houses, great kivas, great roads, and other remnants of cultural and historic significance; and

WHEREAS, areas within the Bears Ears cultural region has one of the highest densities of cultural resources of any area in the United States, the vast majority of which are attributed to Ancestral Pueblo people; and

WHEREAS, Pueblos have an enduring obligation to protect these cultural properties and sacred sites as sacred footprints of modern Pueblo people, whose spirits still reside in those places; and

WHEREAS, protection of traditional cultural properties and sacred sites that exist in San Juan County, that include the night skies, soundscapes, viewsheds and sight-lines is essential to preserving the traditional cultural values and sites that exist the Bears Ears cultural region; and

WHEREAS, increased mineral development, including oil and gas development, and the related infrastructure, including roads and pipelines, and impacts indirectly related to increased mineral, oil and gas development including looting and vandalism significantly threatens irreparable degradation and harm to Pueblo traditional cultural properties and sacred sites; and

WHEREAS, the impacts from mineral development, including oil and gas development, lead to environmental degradation, and damage the health of humans, plants, and animals alike; and

WHEREAS, the APCG appreciates the government-to-government relationship that was founded upon a unique Trust Responsibility from the Federal Government to Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, the APCG supports the requirement for meaningful government-to-government consultation for all federal undertakings and management plans affecting each Pueblo's traditional cultural properties and sacred sites, as mandated by the National Historic Preservation Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and Executive Orders 12898 and 13007; and

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WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of a federal agency to make the determination of whether a traditional cultural property exists prior to taking federal action; and

WHEREAS, APCG and individual member Pueblos have repeatedly informed the BLM of the existence of Pueblo cultural resources, traditional cultural properties, sacred sites, and cultural landscapes in the Bears Ears region that have not been documented, but may be identified and determined to be historic properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management has not initiated any ethnographic work with the Pueblos to determine whether one, if not more, cultural landscapes exist in eastern San Juan County that may qualify as a traditional cultural property, but is still proposing the widescale leasing of lands.

WHEREAS, the APCG and some of its member Pueblo have actively protested multiple lease sales in San Juan County with no modifications to nominated parcels made by the Bureau of Land Management based on submitted concerns; and

WHEREAS, in September 2019, despite the protests of the APCG and its members, the Bureau of Land Management Monticello field office issued leases on over 32,000 acres of public lands for oil and gas development in some of the most culturally-rich and sensitive areas in San Juan County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the All Pueblo Council of Governors opposes current leasing efforts and any future leasing efforts in eastern San Juan County until BLM initiate and complete an ethnographic study of cultural landscape(s) within the Bears Ears cultural region and fulfill duties under the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 process with meaningful engagement by Pueblos to identify and protect from damage Pueblo cultural properties and sacred sites; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that until the Bureau of Land Management completes an ethnographic study and fully complies with its responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act, the Archeological Resources Protection Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and other laws prior to issuing leases, the All Pueblo Council of Governors formally requests BLM to immediately institute a moratorium on all mineral related permitting and leasing in San Juan County to protect traditional cultural properties and sacred sites; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the APCG Chairman and the Office of the All Pueblo Council of Governors are authorized to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

Acoma

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Jemez

Laguna

Nambe

Ohkay Owingeh

Picuris

Pojoaque

Sandia

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San Ildefonso

Santa Ana

Santa Clara

Santo Domingo

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Tesuque

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CERTIFICATION

Officers:

E. Paul Torres, Chairman

Governor J. Michael Chavarria, Vice Chair

Governor Val Panteah, Sr., Secretary

We, the undersigned officials of the All Pueblo Council of Governors, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. APCG 2019-26 was considered and adopted at a duly called council meeting held on the 26th day of September 2019, and at which time a quorum was present and the same was approved by a vote of ____ in favor, ____ against, ____ abstain, and ____ absent.

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By:

E. Paul Torres, APCG Chairman

ATTEST:

Val Panteah, Sr., APCG Secretary